



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY

Final flight home Thursday for soldiers from National Guard infantry battalion

1st Battalion, 128th Infantry completes one year in Iraq

The final 75 soldiers from the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, are scheduled to arrive at Volk Field around 4:20 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3. Returning Thursday will be 44 soldiers from the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Eau Claire and Abbotsford), 22 soldiers from Company A (Menomonie), one soldier from Company B (New Richmond and Rice Lake), and eight soldiers from Company C (Arcadia and Neillsville). The Thursday afternoon flight will also include about 75 soldiers from National Guard units in Tennessee, Michigan and Indiana.

About 550 of the battalion's soldiers have returned to Wisconsin within the past week. Soldiers who had been assigned to the battalion's River Falls-based Company D were reassigned to other battalion units during the mobilization process last year and will return with the units to which they were reassigned.

1st Battalion, 128th Infantry was mobilized June 20, 2004 and deployed to Iraq in November 2004 following several months training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and Fort Irwin, Calif. The battalion served for nearly one full year overseas in central Iraq in the Samarra area.

Returning soldiers will be met by their families, senior National Guard officials and the 132nd Army Band. Following an initial reunion with their families and a brief official "welcome home," the soldiers will travel to Fort McCoy to begin about five days of demobilization processing.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover the return of 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry soldiers to Volk Field Thursday Nov. 3. The flight is expected to arrive at the Air National Guard base sometime around 4:20 p.m. Actual flight arrival time is likely to change.

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National Guard infantry battalion home

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Volk Field is located in Juneau County off Exit 55 on Interstate Highways 90-94 near Camp Douglas.

Following the aircraft's arrival, soldiers and their families will have about an hour together before the soldiers are bused to Fort McCoy to begin demobilization processing.

News media organizations wishing to cover the Volk Field arrival should call Tim Donovan (608-516-1777) so arrangements can be made for access to the military installation. News media will not be permitted on the base unless arrangements have been made in advance. Please call by 12:00 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3.

AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CALL 608-242-3059 FOR RECORDED SCHEDULE CHANGES.